

We Sing of Home (Finlandia)  
SATB, a cappella

arr. Timothy C. Takach

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# Timothy C. Takach

## We Sing of Home (Finlandia)

for SATB a cappella choir

Commissioned by the 2014-2015 Hopkins High School Concert Choir, Philip Brown, conductor



Timothy C Takach.com

## Text:

You've seen the plains at dawn, and felt the day's rain  
Opened the earth, and planted your life there.  
Heard in the wind, the tall grass whisper your name.  
Somewhere the air makes peace with mystery,  
Somewhere the hills now bloom, and rivers flow free.  
Each song of home, is sung by trav'ling birds.

You've seen the stars at dusk, watched wishes burn bright.  
Given your heart, in hope, despite the dark.  
Over the miles the road that leads you homeward,  
Is the path the moon takes, the sun keeps.  
We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.  
We sing of home, we sing of love, of peace.

- *Julia Klatt Singer*

## Notes:

When Philip Brown asked me to arrange "Finlandia" for his choir, I was doubtful. There are many arrangements out there in the choral market, and I had sung the piece for at least three years during my time with Cantus. What more could I say musically about the piece? Then our thoughts turned to creating a new text, and not only offering something new to choirs, but also tailoring the piece to his specific thematic program. I asked my friend and long-time collaborator Julia Klatt Singer to write a new poem that scans perfectly with the meter and stress of the existing music (not an easy task). She thankfully agreed, and wrote this text. The moments when her stresses didn't agree with how I knew the piece (both in Finnish and English) I took as opportunities to deviate from the commonly sung tune.

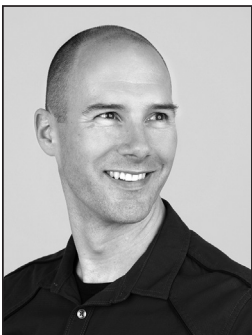
- *Timothy C. Takach, 2014*

I started writing by listening to the Finnish version of Finlandia. It had me remembering visiting the farms of my Finnish Grandmother and her sister, my Aunt Auni, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. My aunts and uncles and cousins all spoke Finnish (my grandmother was one of 13 siblings), and I remember as a girl hearing the sounds of their words and not having a clue what they were talking about. So language became rhythm and sound, punctuated by laughter, quiet, screen doors slammed shut by the wind.

Writing, I thought about landscape, about home. I thought about sounds; of words, of the wind, of birds, of place. And even though those rocky fields, barns, fences and saunas weren't my home, it is a part of where I come from. It is a part of me. Having as an adult visited Finland, I was comforted and surprised to see how much the U.P. looks like Finland. The rocks, the grasses, the summer wildflowers, the vast blue skies.

There is mystery to place and to the past. Mystery we live with, and that lives in us.

- *Julia Klatt Singer*



Inspired by captivating narrative, speculative fiction and making humans better through art, the music of Timothy C. Takach is a mainstay in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines, thoughtful text choices and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach has received commissions and performances from GRAMMY Award-winning ensembles Roomful of Teeth and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the St. Olaf Band, Lorelei Ensemble, True Concord Voices and Orchestra, and numerous other organizations. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. Takach is a co-creator of the theatrical production of *All is Calm: the Christmas Truce of 1914*, by Peter Rothstein, and won the 2024 Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize for *Computing Venus* with librettist Caitlin Vincent.

Takach's a cappella choral symphony *Helios* is "larger than life, as if the piece were accompanied by an orchestra" and is "complemented with brilliant visuals created by CandyStations" (Tucson.com). In 2023 the James Sewell Ballet premiered his ballet *Unfashioned Creature* in St. Paul, MN. Takach was a co-founder, singer and Artistic Co-Director of the vocal ensemble Cantus and has frequent national work as a composer-in-residence, clinician and lecturer. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

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Philip Brown, conductor

# We Sing of Home (Finlandia)

for SATB a cappella choir

Julia Klatt Singer

Jean Sibelius

arr. Timothy C. Takach

$\text{♩} = 96-100$

*mp*

Soprano

*mp*

Alto

*mp*

Tenor

*mp*

Bass

Mm... Mm... Mm... Mm...

5

S

A

T

B

*p*

*p*

*n.*

Ah... You've seen the plains at dawn, and felt the day's rain You've seen the plains at dawn, and felt the day's rain

We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

10

S Ah... Heard in the wind, the

A O-pened the earth, and plant-ed your life there. Heard in the wind, the

T O-pened the earth, and plant-ed your life there. Heard in the wind, the

B Heard in the wind, the

*p*

16

S tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

A tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

T tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

B tall grass whis - pers your name. Some-where the air makes

*mf* *mp*

20

S peace with mys - ter - y, Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

A peace with mys - ter - y, Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

T peace with mys - ter - y, Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

B peace with mys - ter - y, Some-where the hills now bloom, and riv - ers

*f*

We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

*rit.*

25 *mf* *rit.*

S flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

A flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

T flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

B flow free. Each song of home, is sung by trav' - ling

29 *a tempo* *p* *mf* *mf* Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah...

S birds. S1 S2 Ah... Ah...

A birds. Ah... Ah...

T birds.

B birds.

33 *p* *p* *mp* *mf* *(not heavy)* *(not heavy)*

S Ah... Ah... Ah... Ah...

A Ah... Ah... Ah...

T You've seen the stars at dusk, watched wish - es  
*mf* bring out melody *(not heavy)*

B You've seen the stars at dusk, watched wish - es

We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

37

S Ah... Ah... Ah...

A Ah... Ah...

T burn bright. Giv - en your heart, in hope, de-spite the

B burn bright. Giv - en your heart, in hope, de-spite the

*mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

41

S Ah... Ah... *f* Warmly O - ver the tutti

A Ah... *f* Warmly O - ver the miles the road that leads you

T dark. *f* Warmly O - ver the miles the road that leads you

B dark. *f* Warmly O - ver the miles the road that leads you

45

S don't lose energy home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun *mp*

A don't lose energy home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun *mp*

T don't lose energy home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun *mp*

B don't lose energy home - ward, Is the path the moon takes, the sun *mp*

4

We Sing of Home / Sibelius (Takach)

49 *molto rit.*  $\text{♩} = 92$  **Broader**

S keeps. *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.

A keeps. *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.

T keeps. *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.

B keeps. *f* We hear the song the stars sing, and we join in.

54 *mf* *p*

S We sing of home, we sing of love, of peace.

A home, we sing of love, of peace.

T We sing of home, we sing of love, of peace.

B home, we sing of love, Mm...

58 *p* *molto rit.* *pp*

S Mm...

A Mm...

T Mm...

B Mm...

## Selected vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Mixed Voices	A Worshipper and a Man		SATB a cappella
	And I Saw		SATB div. a cappella
	As the Sunflower Turns on Her God		SSAATBB div, Sop. solo, SSATB soli, a cappella
	Crossroads		SATB, piano
	The Darkling Thrush	(earthsongs)	SATB, SAT soli, a cappella
	Even in My Time		3-part treble, piano
	Fragile		SATB, hand drum
	Joseph		SATB a cappella
	Mantra	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB, piano
	MOMENTS IN FILM: A Mural of Change		SATB, piano
	MOMENTS IN FILM: Insidious		SATB, piano
	MOMENTS IN FILM: Flying Solo		SATB, piano
	Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers	(Graphite Publishing)	SSATBB a cappella
	One Boy Told Me		SATB, piano
Treble Voices	And I Saw		SSAA div. a cappella
	Bahihii Waaliidkay Dhaqay		2-part, piano
	Cassiopeia		SSA a cappella
	How to Triumph Like a Girl	(Graphite Publishing)	SSA, piano
	There is No Rose	(Lorelei Ensemble)	SSAA, SS soli, a cappella
	Together, Unafraid		SSA, piano
TB Voices	She Tore a Map	(Graphite Publishing)	SA, piano
	Empty		TB (opt. div), piano, opt. djembe
	Every Fire		TTBB, piano
	Goodbye, Then		TBB choir, Bb clarinet, piano
	Kin		TB, piano
	Mad		TB, piano
	Original Harmony	(Colla Voce)	TTBB a cappella
	Rough Beast		TTBB, percussion
	Salve Regina	(Graphite Publishing)	TBB semi-chorus, TTBB a cappella
Large Works	At Home (ca. 15')		SATB, flute, clarinet
	Born For This (ca. 16')		SATB and piano, chamber ensemble, or concert band
	Changed by Beauty (ca. 18')		SATB, cello
	Helios (ca. 65')		SATB a cappella
	The Longest Nights (ca. 21')		SATB, piano or string quartet
	This is How You Love (ca. 35') composed with Jocelyn Hagen		SATB div. a cappella
	True North (ca. 16')		SATB, chamber orchestra
	Unfashioned Creature (ca. 41'), a ballet		SATB, cello, percussion, dancers
We, the Unknown (ca. 40')		TTBB, soloists, chamber orchestra	

